THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): But I have already announced that the Bill is passed.

The House is adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned at

eighteen minutes past two of the clock.

The House reassembled at thirty three minutes past two of the clock, Mr. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—RESOLUTION

Inflation and steep rise in prices of essential commodities of mass consumption

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh) Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move the following Resolution—

"That this House expresses its serious concern over failure of the Government to check the run away inflation and steep rise in the prices of essential commodities of mass consumption and urges upon the Government that—

(iii) the procurement and public distribution system be enhanced and strengthened;

(iv) meaures be taken to stop forward trading and

(v) a detailed plan of action to check the growing inflation and price rise be placed before this House."

Sir, through this Resolution, I am impressing upon the Government to take some effective measures because the common man is already in real trouble. We are seeing that these skyrocketing prices are creating havoc for the common man as his real income is getting eroded due to this high inflation and price-rise. We are seeing that the rural folk are spending about 50 per cent of their income on their food bill, and the urban people's family budget has increased between 25 per cent to

40 per cent. We are also seeing that due to this price-rise, the salaried people are the most effected. There are many reasons for this increase in inflation.

While coming to the question of inflation, what we are seeing is that it rose steadily from an average 3.8 per cent in April 2006 to 5.1 in August 2006. Then it crossed 6 per cent mark in January 2007, and on January 27, it reached up to 6.58 per cent, and on February 3 it reached up to 6.53 per cent. Due to this high inflation, the prices of foodstuffs and essential commodities have risen terribly. Now we are seeing that the price of *moong dal* which was earlier Rs. 22.50 per kg has increased to Rs. 49. So, the percentage of hike is 118 per cent. In the case of *urad dal,* 82 per cent, wheat 33 per cent, atta 44 per cent, and onion prices have gone up to 186 per cent. Now this situation that we are seeing is due to this high inflation and price rise. Now the Government has woken up very late. The Finance Minister, while addressing a meeting of the industrialist said, "We are going to take some fiscal measures and fiscal measures in the shape of the easing the imports, banning exports and slashing the interest rate." And then he said that the banks are going to apply their own monetary tools. So, what we are seeing is that in spite of all these fiscal measures, it is having very little impact because the Government has woken up very late. They should have had a long pronged strategy. But unfortunately, they could not have visualised what things were going to come and which way they had to check the price rise. Actually what is happening is that the Government does not have any long-term strategy in order to impress the masters of globalisation the Public Distribution System is very much weakened and as a result of this the essential commodities are not reaching the public. If we go through the process of procurement, this year we are seeing that the procurement has fallen down to 37 per cent. Even though the local, players and other traders were in a position to pay higher procurement prices and they stocked a very huge quantity by hoarding in their own godowns, unfortunately, the Government did not move further to procure by giving some higher rates. What we were seeing in the country was that when the Government was in the midst of this crisis, they went for purchases from abroad and that too by giving higher prices. What we want to impress upon them is that instead of giving higher prices abroad while purchasing wheat either from Australia or Canada, they could have hiked their own procurement prices for our farmers. So, in that way, we could have had buffer stock. While drawing attention to a very glaring

example of Bengal Famine, Amratya Sen, a nobel Laureate, said that there was no shortage of food stock at that time; it was only due to hoarding and black-marketing that the people of Bengal had to suffer the great Bengal Famine. When we think of Bengal Famine, we can understand that even though there was a little bit low agrarian productivity, but in spite of all this, we were in a position to augment and then go ahead steadily. But, unfortunately, the Government relied only upon certain measures which have not helped in any way. Now, as per the economic tools which were applied by the Reserve Bank of India, the Reserve Bank of India thought that credit should be hiked and the interest rates should be lessened and then they have also taken certain other measures to think that the money supply should be shortened. But instead of all these measures, there was a little bit impact on the inflation side. In the second week of December, Reserve Bank of India announced a plan to hike the cash reserve ratio. The hike proposal of 5 per cent to 5.25 per cent and 7.5 per cent was to seek out Rs. 13,500 crores from Indian economy. Later, on 13th Februry, RBI announced another hike of 5.75 and 6 per cent to observe a liquidity of Rs. 14,000 crores. But it has got little success. Don't you feel that these monitoring tools are more effective in economising greater financial inclusion? So majority have no access to banks. What we are seeing is a bitter reality that the majority of the people do not have access to the banks. It means only 12 per cent of the rural India is having access. On the contrary, the other day, the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank has set an example of UK. When they had a survey of bankers association, they said that 90 to 94 per cent in UK have accounts either in current or in savings. In India, only 59 per cent of adult population, with 80 per cent in urban and 12 per cent in rural India, is having. Another contention of the Finance Minister is that due to this fiscal measure, there won't be any sort of impediment in the growth. But, what I want to say is that high inflation does not give automatically higher growth. Now, there is an example of Asian countries who had 7 per cent growth rate successfully for 25 years but still we are seeing that there was no high inflation rate. But still, we are seing that there was no high inflation rate. On the contary, we can cite examples of countries where there is high inflation but they tended to have a lower growth. So, all these hypothetical thing and measures, which were taken by Government, have not yielded any sort of results. What we are saying is that the productivity is going down and then, farmers are getting a raw deal. Now, the acreage in pulses and cereals are

going down so we are only thinking that whenever there is a shortage we can go for purchases from abroad. So, instead of going abroad it is better if we become self-sufficient and then we take so many measures on agraian sector. In this I want to cite an example of the Sixth Five Year Plan. In the year 1980-85, due to the allocation of 12.5 per cent in irrigation, we had a growth rate of 5.7 per cent. Now, of course, in the Budget Speech, our Finance Minister has envisaged an agricultural growth of 4 per cent but allocation is not at par with the growth which we are visualising. So, coming to suggestions of how to contain inflation in price rise, what I feel, first of all, is that we must give higher credit to farmers. Already in Swaminathan Commission, the National Commission for farmers have recommended that four per cent interest should be levied on farmers. But, now, we are seeing that 8 per cent to 12 per cent, or, even more than that, is being charged. And if you go to Mahajans and others, it goes up to 100 per cent also. So, this is one of the reasons where we have to be more cautious. Sir, more acreage for pulses has to brought under cultivation. Now, we are seeing that a very small portion of land is reserved for pulses. We should reserve more land for pulses. The other point is cropping pattern should be shifted water-intensive to less water-intensive crops. We have to apply some technological tools. Then, what we are seeing is that middlemen are creating havoc. Sir, from procedure to market, we see that, there are, at least, four to five players. And the entire profit is eaten by the middlemen. So, from farmer to consumer, there are many stages and the consumer is compelled to pay 6 per cent higher. To eliminate middlemen, who are eating away the major chunk of benefit through speculation and through their involvement, we have to take steps. As I already said, from low productivity to higher yield, we have to apply so many technological methods. The Government, whenever there is inflation and outcry from the public, announces certain policies. But, it does not give any clear serious signals to contain inflation and price rise. What I feel is that the Government has failed to give a clear cut signal. We should also have a long-term strategy. The production of sensitive items like wheat and cereals have to keep pace with the rising demand. Now, we are seeing that there is a lot of demand but the supply is very weak. So, these bottlenecks have to be plugged.

Now, I come to imports. Wherever we have shortages, we are going in for import. That is not a final solution, because, we are, now, seeing that international prices are also going up. So, the Government has to pay

extra money. Instead of paying more money in the international market, the same can be paid to farmers who will come forward merrily and we can have more procurement.

Another thing is, as I said, while giving the example of Bengal Famine, there was lack of will on the part of the British Government to check hoarding. But, now, we have the Essential Commodities Act. Unfortunately, it is now a little bit diluted. So, first of all, it has to be strengthened. And, secondly, the Act should be strictly implemented against the deafulters. Unfortunately, we are not doing this.

Finally, Sir, I come to PDS. Unless and until we strengthen the PDS, we are not going to get better results. I want to give an example of Kerala. I think, it is one of the best examples, where they are having not one or two but for different layers of public distribution system. The consumer cooperative sector goes much earlier to *mandies,* wholesale markets and they even go up to Nasik to procure onions. They go to various other places to get essential items at cheaper rates. The Civil Supplies Department, the private consumer federations and others go. So, there are four layers of distribution in Kerala. So, they are able to contain the price rise. In this way, the Central Government also can give a directive to the State Governments to follow that example where they can have more vigilance by finding out what sort of shortage or what sort of problems we are going to have. And, through our PDS, we are supplying only three or four basic commodities. But, what I want to urge upon the Government is to extend the distribution system by including more items, because we are having only a limited number of items distributed through PDS. So, why can't we extend the public distribution system, giving facility of more items, like, cereals, pulses, etc. Even vegetable can also be included to give relief to the common man.

So, these are some of the measures. I feel that the Government has failed to take effective measures. They lack long-term strategy. What is going to happen? They have failed to take effective measures whether it is implementing the Essential Commodities Act or it is checking black-marketing and hoarding. These are some of the measures which the Government did not take properly. I urge upon the Government to think seriously and effective intervention by taking all these measures because only then we can give a little bit relief to the common man by checking the inflation in prices.

The question was proposed.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I do not agree with the contents of the resolution moved by my learned colleague. Although I share his concern, and the entire House obviously, over the inflationary tendencies being shown recently. I do not agree because he blatantly blames the Government for, what he calls, failure of the Government to check the inflation and steep rise in prices. This is not necessarily so. In fact, it is like AIDS, still we don't know what the cause of AIDS are. If you ask economists what are the basic things which lead to price rise. You will get 4-5 versions. In other words, the science of determining price rise is not definite. Therefore, to blatantly blame the Government is not justified, although we all share his concern over whatever is happening. But first thing I would like to say that we have been rather a bit shy of using the Essential Commodities Act. Everybody seems to be shy of using the Essential Commodities Act. When certain things are very much know that in the entire economy hoarding takes place to a large extent, not to use the Essential Commodities Act is not a good measure. Therefore, a rationale use of the Essential Commodities Act has to be done because artificial scarcities were created and are being created at present. It is a well known thing. But how do you curb it? Earlier, when the Essential Commodities Act was in full force, even the smallest trader used to display prices of commodities. There was a discipline at every consumer store. Even average common man used to go there to read the prices, in whatever local language. That was a deterrent. Deterrent punishment is there for anybody hoarding or not displaying prices, etc. Therefore, in this vast country of millions of people to allow things to go without being checked will not be a good sign. It will not be a thing like free economy, free trade, etc. and keep aside the basic laws. Therefore, this aspect has to be looked into. Then, in the interest of the common man we should also see that more items, even like cooking oil, soap, etc. should be made available at reasonable prices through the public distribution system. Today on account of advertisements, costs of essential commodities, I do not say essential commodities technically, but they are essential commodities, have risen far above the true price. A soap which would have cost Rs. 5/- costs Rs. 15, only because we seen on television advertisement, actors and actrersses showing a particular brand of soap. The same is the case with palm oil and other things. Therefore, if you want to serve the common

400RS—20

man and give him commodities apart from rice, wheat, sugar etc., that is, something more, then, according to me we should also venture into that. The Congress President Sonia Gandhiji also, sometime back, during the Chief Ministers' Conference said that we should give teeth to the Essential Commodities Act. She stressed on the strengthening of the Public Distribution System and checking of forwarding trading. This was the message given during that meeting. Even many Chief Ministers said that they would like to take the help of the Central Government to get the Essential Commodities Act strengthened because during the earlier regimes this Act was neutralised, kept aside, and they were looking after only particular section of society. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Therefore, no; no. I am not naming anybody. They were very keen that the Essential Commodities Act should be thrown into the dustbin. Therefore, during that regime, the Essential Commodities Act of ...*(Interruptions)*... During those regimes, the Essential Commodities Act was buried and people were allowed to make huge profits. And those profits were siphoned off in a particular direction. That is known. The other side knows it very well. They can enlighten us on this.

Another aspect is this. The fallout of rising prices is there politically also. It affects any political party. Whenever prices rise, people, many a time, keep aside all things and throw the Government that rules, from power. Sometimes, I feel if people judge Governments really on economic issues, we should not regret it. I personally feel that on real economic issues people should decide whether this Government should be there or not. But many a time, Sir, we have to educate people why prices are rising. We have to educate them. If we find that the controlling machinery is not fully responsible, then, we should tell the people that this is the thing. Today nobody knows, as I said, even experts do not know. Therefore, we should try to explain to the people the mechanics of price rise and then decide whether the Government of the day has faulted or not. And what happens, thereby, is this. Suppose, there is a party which is ruling, which is secular and during that regime prices rise and the Government falls. Then, communal forces can take advantage. They would not do any better to the State, they will do worse; they would add their own communalism to this. Therefore, they take advantage of it. People, sometimes, are not aware of who will get the advantage of their voting pattern. Therefore, it is essential that people should be aware of who causes the price rise, and

3.00 P.M.

then vote. I think, that will be welcome. These NGOs can do this process of educating people of the real reasons of price rise.

As far as retail trade is concerned, my colleague, who is an expert, Mr. Joshi, is here. I would like to say that everybody today is coming into this. Ambani is selling potatoes, and tomatoes. If Ambani starts selling tomatoes and potatoes, what will be the fate of average vegetable vendors, one does not know. I also do not know the economics of retail trade. But, I would like, certainly, the Government to keep monitoring these things so that retail trade does not go out of the hands of the common vendors and out of the hands of the common consumers. If there are sophisticated malls from where only rich people would be able to go and purchase vegetables and other commodities, the common man will be scared of going into these malls. The common man will think that this is not their town, this is not their village and only the big people can enter into these malls to buy vegetables and other things. It is a question of psychology also. Therefore, the Government has to monitor it. Sir, nowadays, the advertisements in retail trade are flourishing like anything. So, I would say that it is time to control these things. As I was referring to advertisements, I would say that advertisements tremendously increase the prices of commodities. If you say, it is only related to essential commodities, I would not agree with it. It is not essential in technical sense. The various minimum needs of the people are satisfied by certain commodities and all those commodities are advertised in a very rash manner at exorbitant prices through media, through TV, etc. Do you know the cost of such advertisement of small items on TV? Only 15 second advertisement costs Rs. 1 lakh; only fifteen second advertisement on a good TV channel costs Rs 1 lakh. You can imagine, for one year, if a commodity, costing ten rupees, is advertised in this manner, what would be the cost of that commodity otherwise? Now, Amitabh Bachchanji is advertising on TV for UP Government for two minutes. I do not know what is the cost involved in it. Sir, colossal amount of crores of rupees of public exchequer are being wasted to say that 'UP *main gunah kam hai.*' Who is paying for that? The common man is paying for that two-minute advertisement ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): There are so many advertisements daily. ...*(Interruptions)*...

4009RS—20B

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: It is all going on. We do not have such advertisement. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is an advertisement '*Wah Taj*'. The tea, the cost of which should have been only forty rupees, costs around hundred rupees just because somebody says, '*Wah Taj*'. I am just giving these examples. Therefore, there must be some sort of ceiling on these things.

Secondly, regarding the BPL criteria, which, I think, is most unrealistic—everybody will agree—some sort of review has to be made. It is not a practical criterion, whatever experts may say. I will not go into the details. But if we want the essential commodities to go beyond the artificially created BPL line, then this formula has to be reviewed.

Secondly, the Public Distribution System has to be computerised because we should know what is the stock available, what is the stock distributed, what are the prices, where the stocks have reached and when the stocks were disposed of. There must be a network of computerisation of the entire Public Distribution System, if the prices are to be put under check and if the distribution is to be done properly. Secondly, if this distribution of essential commodities through Public Distribution System is done properly, then, vast stocks will be available which can be given to the population above BPL. Today, because there are no commodities available for them, the BPL is there. There will be vast stock of commodities which can be given to that population whose pay is above those of the BPL families. You can change the formula and increase it. Therefore, the computerisation is very much essential. It would also check corruption.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to say that price rise occurs because of several other reasons also. Price rise occurs in accordance with the developments of the country. As the country develops, the prices also rise. As growth rate increases, people say with certainty that there will be price rise as a result of it. But how that occurs has also to be explained to the country. Today, because our GDP has grown, today because our country is flourishing, there is price rise. In the eyes of the United States, we are flourishing. They said that India is growing like anything, and now this country does not require any financial assistance from the United States. They are going to stop our financial aid on grounds that India is progressing. Therefore, on the one hand we are progressing, while on the other, we find these aberrations. Since these aberrations of price rise are there, there

must be some forces working; surely, some international forces are working towards the stockpiling of essential commodities, trading through the Internet, etc. Therefore, we should also look into these aspects. The international forces that are at work in our market need to be thoroughly examined. Just as they are working to terrorise the nation, these forces are also working to ensure that there is shortage of commodities in our country and chaos is created. This aspect should also be looked into. I hope Government would do the needful in the matter.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): उपसभापति महोदय, अभी हमारे माननीय पाशा साहब ने जो संकल्प रखा है, उस पर मैं अपने विचार व्यक्त कर रहा हूं। श्रीमान् शांताराम जी ने, जो इस देश में मंहगाई बढ़ रही है, मुझे लगता है कि उसका सारा भार उन्होंने विज्ञापन पर छोड़ दिया है कि जो विज्ञापन हुआ, तो उसके कारण हमारी आवश्यक चीजों के दाम बढ़ गए। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि गेहूं का विज्ञापन आपने सुना हो।

श्री शांताराम लक्ष्मण नायक: मैंने गेहूं की बात नहीं की।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: क्या आपने कहीं मक्का का सुना है, क्या आपने कहीं प्याज के बारे में सुना है, क्या आपने कहीं आलू के बारे में सुना है, आलू के चिप्स के बारे में जरूर सुना होगा। ये जीवन-यापन के लिए जो आवश्यक चीजें हैं ...(व्यवधान)

श्री शांताराम लक्ष्मण नायक: क्या आटे का विज्ञापन नहीं होता, जो आटे की थैली होती है?

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: ऐसा है, आटे का विज्ञापन आपने सुना होगा, मैंने तो कभी नहीं सुना। किसी ब्रांड के बारे में कोई करता होगा।

उपसभापति जी, मैं सरकारी पक्ष से यह अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि इसमें कोई राजनीति नहीं है, यह संकल्प है सब लोगों के लिए ईमानदारी से विचार करने का, कि वास्तव में महंगाई की समस्या है। शांताराम जी मानें या न मानें, यह उनकी मर्जी की बात है, और सदस्य भी मानें या न मानें, लेकिन स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री जी ने, स्वयं कांग्रेस की चेयर-पर्सन ने और देश के वित्त मंत्री जी ने, इस बात को सार्वजनिक रूप से स्वीकार किया है कि देश में मंहगाई की दर बढ़ती जा रही है। इसलिए आज हम इस बात की बहस करें कि क्या मंहगाई बढ़ रही है? अगर बढ़ रही है और ऐसे छोटे-मोटे कारण हम ढूंढेंगे, तो वास्तव में समस्या के समाधान की ओर नहीं जाएंगे। अभी आपने दो-तीन कानूनों का रेफरेन्स देते हुए कहा कि असेन्सियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट, उसको किसी जमाने में कमजोर किया गया था, लेकिन अब आपको तीन साल सरकार में रहते हुए हो गए, अगर आपको लगता है कि इसी के कारण सारी बीमारी है, तो जैसे आपने संयुक्त अधिवेशन बुलाकर

टाडा को हटाया था, इसका मतलब आपके पास बहुमत है, वैसे ही आप इसको हटा दीजिए। आप जिस कानून को हटाना चाहते हैं, तोड़ना-मरोड़ना चाहते हैं, उसको हटाइए। आप असेन्सियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट का बार-बार रोना क्यों रोते हैं? आपके पास शक्ति है, आपके पास पावर है, you are ruling this country. You have the power to amend the Act or replace it. लेकिन हम केवल बहाने बनाना चाहते हैं। इससे तो काम नहीं चलेगा।

उपसभापति महोदय, मैं विशेष रूप से एक विषय आपकी मार्फत सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूं। हम इन्फ्लेशन की बात करते हैं, जबकि इन्फ्लेशन रेट का आम आदमी से कोई संबंध नहीं लगता, क्योंकि पहले इन्फ्लेशन रेट 4.4 था, जो अब 6.5 या 6.6 है, इसका मतलब यह कि 2 परसेंट बढ़ा है, लेकिन क्या जीवनयापी वस्तुओं की कीमत 2 परसेंट के हिसाब से बढ़ी है? अगर पहले गेहूं 10/- रुपए किलो मिलता था, तो 2 परसेंट के हिसाब से 20 पैसा बढ़ेगा? क्या आज गेहूं का दाम 10 रुपया 20 पैसे हुआ है? गेहूं का दाम तो 10/- रुपए से 16 रुपए और 18/- रुपए हो गया है और इसका मतलब हुआ कि 60 परसेंट बढ़ गया है। अभी मैं इस पर ज्यादा विवरण नहीं रखना चाहता, क्योंकि अभी बजट पर चर्चा के दौरान चर्चा होगी। चूंकि आपने इस विषय को सदन में रखा, मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि दो इन्फ्लेशन रेट बनाए। पहला इन्फ्लेशन रेट उस टाइप का बनाइए, जिसमें जीवनयापी वस्तुओं के दामों पर वास्तविकता का अनुमान हो। हम मिसलीड करते हैं कंट्री को, हम मिसलीड करते हैं statistics देने वालों को, हम मिसलीड करते हैं देश के गरीब आदमी को। गरीब आदमी को कुछ पता नहीं कि इन्फलेशन रेट दो परसैंट बढ़ा है, आधा परसैंट बढ़ा है या चौथाई परसैंट बढ़ा है, गरीब आदमी को तो केवल इस बात से सरोकार है कि उसके इस्तेमाल में आने वाले आलू, प्याज, गेहूं, आटा, दाल, तेल का दाम कितना बढ़ा है और इन दस, पन्द्रह या बीस आइटम्स का अगर आप इन्फलेशन रेट केलकुलेट करने लगेंगे तो आपकी आंखें खुलेंगी, आप भी गफलत में नहीं रहेंगे, सरकार भी गफलत में नहीं रहेगी और यह बुद्धिजीवी वर्ग भी गफलत में नहीं रहेगा, ये इकनॉमिस्ट्स भी गफलत में नहीं रहेंगे, क्योंकि इनके दामों में वृद्धि 90 परसैंट से ज्यादा हुई है। जब 90 परसैंट से ज्यादा की वृद्धि इन चीजों में हुई है तो यह दो परसैंट का इन्फलेशन आधे परसैंट का इन्फलेशन क्या मायने रखता है एक आम आदमी के लिए। एक आम आदमी को उसकी आवश्यकता की वस्तु के दामों से सरोकार है, उसको इससे मतलब है कि मंडी में, बाजार में, दुकान में उसको वह चीज किस भाव से मिलती है। उसे इस बात से मतलब नहीं है कि इन्फलेशन कितने परसैंट बढ़ा है। उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा सरकार से एक अनुरोध है कि देश को सही स्थिति बताने के लिए, जनता को सही आंकड़े देने के लिए, जनता को वास्तविक स्थिति बताने के लिए, यह बात मैं राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूं सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि आप इन्फलेशन रेट, आपकी जो मर्जी आए आप statistics से खेलते रहिए, हर सरकार खेलती रही है, लेकिन आवश्यक चीजों के लिए इन्फ्लेशन रेट का केलकुलेशन

वास्तविक आधार पर होना चाहिए, दुनियाभर के पचासों, सैंकड़ों आइटमस की ऐवरेज निकालकर देने से आपका काम नहीं चलेगा। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि इस बारे में सरकार विचार करे।

उपसभापति महोदय, मैं दूसरी बात यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अभी लोगों को उम्मीद थी कि बजट में आम आदमी के लिए कोई राहत मिलेगी, आम जरूरत की चीजों के लिए कुछ राहत मिलेगी, लेकिन कोई राहत नहीं मिली और किसी ने भी इस बात को नहीं कहा कि इस बजट के कारण कुछ मंहगाई कम होगी, बल्कि 12 रुपए से ज्यादा सीमेंट के दाम बढ़ गए, स्टील वालों ने भी बजट के दूसरे ही दिन दो-दो हजार रुपए टन के हिसाब से दाम बढ़ा दिए। हम मंहगाई घटाने की बात संसद में बैठकर कर रहे हैं और बाजार में इन चीजों के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं तो इसका मतलब है? हम सोचते क्या हैं, करते क्या हैं और होता क्या है। इसका अर्थ यह है कि हमारे इकनॉमिस्ट या हमारे वित्त मंत्रालय या हमारे प्लानिंग विभाग के सामने वास्तविकता का अभाव है।, वे इस बात को नहीं जानते हैं कि फलां चीज करने से उसका परिणाम क्या होगा। अंतत परिणाम यह निकल रहा है कि सीमेंट महंगा हो गया, स्टील महंगा हो गया। फिर इन चीजों के अतिरिक्त जो महत्वपूर्ण है वह यह है कि आवश्यक चीजों के बारे में आज हमारे सामने सवाल यह नहीं है कि कौन उसको होल्डिंग कर रहा है या नहीं कर रहा है, आज हम खुद इस बात को स्वीकार कर चुके हैं इस बजट में कि एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्शन या एग्रीकल्चर की GDP ग्रोथ 2.3 परसैंट हुई, जबकि होनी चाहिए थी 4 परसैंट। अगर 4 परसैंट ग्रोथ होती तो हमारे यहां गेहूं की कमी नहीं होती, अनाजों की कमी नहीं होती, एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्टस की कमी नहीं होती, लेकिन इनकी कमी हुई क्योंकि सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्टस की कमी नहीं होती, लेकिन इनकी कमी हुई क्योंकि सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण एग्रीकल्चर के अंदर प्रॉपर इन्वेस्टमेंट नहीं हुआ, किसानों को प्रोत्साहन नहीं मिला, किसानों को जिस प्रकार की राहत चाहिए थी, वह नहीं मिली और इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि किसान इन सारे प्रोडक्टस के प्रति उदासीन बन गया और इस उदासीनता का परिणाम हमने यह देखा कि हमारे एग्रीकल्चर की ग्रोथ 2.3 परसैंट रह गई। जब प्रोडक्शन ही घट गया है, जब उत्पादन ही नहीं हुआ है तो फिर उसके दाम स्वाभाविक रूप से बढ़ेंगे, चाहे आप खरीद लें या दूसरा कोई खरीदे। शार्टेज के अंदर ब्लैक मार्किटिंग होती है, प्रॉफिटिंग होती है, हम सब जानते हैं, उसको रोकने का काम सरकार का होता है, दूसरी कोई एजेंसी उसको नहीं रोक सकती। सरकार ने अभी तक इन सारे मामलों में, मुझे नहीं मालूम, कहीं पर कोई रेड डाली हो, कहीं पर किसी स्टॉक को पकड़ा हो या किसी व्यापारी को पकड़ा हो या किसी के पास अन रिक्वायर्ड या अन डिजायरेबल क्वान्टिटी आफ स्टाक मिले हों। इन चीजों के बारे में सरकार जानकारी दे तब तो पता लगेगा, लेकिन केवल धूल में लठ चलाने से काम नहीं चलेगा।..... । आप कहें कि होर्डिंग हो रही है, प्रॉफिटेरिंग हो रही है, दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, लेकिन आप इस बात को नहीं देख रहे हैं कि एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्ट का उत्पादन भी कम हुआ, उस हालत में शॉर्टेज तो आएगी ही।

उपसभापति महोदय, इस मंहगाई के बारे में मैं आपसे अंतिम बात कहना चाहता हूं। मैं अप्रैल महीने में इस सदन में आया था। आपको ध्यान होगा कि अप्रैल में जो सत्र चल रहा था, उसमें भी मैं महंगाई के बारे में बोला था और सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित किया था। उसके बाद जब वर्षाकालीन अधिवेशन हुआ, उसमें भी अपनी पार्टी की ओर से मैंने महंगाई पर चर्चा की थी और शीतकालीन अधिवेशन में भी हमने सरकार का ध्यान महंगाई की ओर आकृष्ट किया था।

उपसभापति महोदय, आज पूरे साल भर से मैं और हमारी पार्टी के सभी लोग सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित कर रहे हैं, लेकिन सरकार के कान पर जूं भी नहीं रेंगती। सरकार जब कदम उठाना चाहती है, तब तक बहुत देर हो चुकी होती है। पानी सर के ऊपर से निकल जाता है, चिड़िया खेत चुग चुकी होती है, मरीज़ के दम तोड़ने के बाद हम उसका इलाज करना शुरू करते हैं। मरीज़ अस्पताल में पड़ा है, उसे ऑक्सीजन की आवश्यकता है और हम ऑक्सीजन इम्पोर्ट करने जा रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में किस प्रकार हम इन समस्याओं का समाधान करेंगे? हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हम गेंहूं इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं, हमने कहा कि यह इम्पोर्ट किया गया गेहूं कब आएगा? खाने के लिए तो मुझे आज चाहिए, अभी चाहिए, शाम को चाहिए, कल सुबह चाहिए और जब तक आपका इम्पोर्टेड गेहूं आएगा, तब तक तो महीना निकल जाएगा और तब तक तो भूख के कारण मेरे प्राण भी निकल सकते हैं।

देश को गुमराह करने वाली बातों को कहने के बजाय, मैं सरकार से कहूंगा कि वह ठोस रूप से कदम उठाने के लिए संकल्पबद्ध हो कर बात करे। अभी जैसा हमारे माननीय सदस्यों ने कह दिया कि इस कारण ऐसा हुआ या उस कारण वैसा हुआ, लेकिन इन हल्के फुल्के कारणों का सहारा लेकर सरकार इस महा-भयावह समस्या का समाधान ढूंढ़ नहीं पाएगी। इस प्रकार तो यह आम आदमी के लिए केवल तकलीफ़ पैदा करने वाला, उनके मन को उद्वेलित करने वाला, उनके मन को आंदोलित करने वाला काम कर रही है। अगर एक बार जन-मानस उद्वेलित हो गया तो जैसा पंजाब में हुआ, जैसा उत्तराखंड में हुआ, जैसा यूपी के चुनावों में हुआ, जैसा महाराष्ट्र के चुनाव में हुआ, वही सबक आपको बाकी जगह भी सीखने को मिलेगा। इसलिए मेहरबानी करके आप इस कार्य को कीजिए, हम इस पर राजनीति नहीं करना चाहते हैं, हम आपसे अनुरोध करना चाहते हैं कि इस महंगाई को जन-समस्याओं के अंतर्गत लेकर, कृपा करके आप कोई ठोस कदम उठाने का प्रयास करें, सभी दलों के लोगों के साथ मिल कर बात-चीत करें और कोई रास्ता निकालें। आप केवल इधर-उधर की बातें न करें।

इस निवेदन के साथ मैं सरकार से यही कहूंगा, मैंने सरकार से दो बातें कही हैं, पहली बात इन्फ्लेशन रेट के बारे में कही है कि आप एवरेज मत लीजिए, आवश्यक वस्तुओं के लिए आप इन्फ्लेशन रेट अलग बनाइए और बाकी चीज़ों के लिए अलग बनाइए। दूसरी बात, जिन कानूनों

को आप निरस्त करना चाहते हैं, यदि आप सोचते हैं कि इन कानूनों को हटाने से फायदा होगा तभी आप ऐसा करिए, नफ़ा नुक़सान आपका होगा। उसे करने के लिए जनता ने आपको शक्ति दी हुई है, आप उसका उपयोग करिए।

तीसरी बात, इम्पोर्ट करने के बारे में है, अगर आपको इम्पोर्ट करना है तो जरा समय से पहले सोचिए क्योंकि मरने के बाद दवा देने का कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। इससे तो आदमी की मौत हो जाएगी और आपका काम भी निकलने वाला नहीं है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, उसके लिए धन्यवाद।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my esteemed colleague. Sir, I don't blame this Government alone for this run away inflation because the credit or discredit of the present kind of price situation should not be, at least, wholly owned by any particular Government. The whole inflationary situation is the result of pursuit of a particular brand of economic philosophy, a particular brand of economic policy regime which was being followed even prior to the period of this UPA Government. The same policy of relying everything on market, relying everything on the solution being offered by automatic operation of market, has given rise to serious structural problem called inflation. I don't consider this inflation to be one of cyclical nature-sometimes up and sometimes down. Gradually, the whole character, the manner the things are taking shape, it is taking the shape of a serious structural problem. I blame definitely this Government about the response to the serious situation that has arisen at the grassroot level because of the inflation, the manner they proposed to address this inflationary situation, the condition which has seriously put the majority of the population in our country in utter distress.

What they are suggesting--even as expressed in the Budget Speech, as expressed in the President's Address, and, as replied by the hon. Prime Minister Yesterday in this House--is that all steps are taken. What steps are being taken only to address the money supply? What is the philosophy behind that? Is that the diagnosis that this inflation has taken place because there is too much money in the market, too much money chasing too less a quantum of goods. So, the monetary intervention is to see that liquidity is less in the market on the one hand, and, on the other hand, supply side is managed by increasing indiscriminate import. A day or two before, also in reply to a specific question raised in this House, this

was suggested, and, willy-nilly, it was endorsed by the Finance Minister. It was told now, we are sitting on a Foreign Exchange reserve of US $ 180 billion. There should be indiscriminate import of everything so that inflationary situation can be addressed. Is that the solution of this situation? Sir, I understand that we are going on a wrong path in addressing these things and we are going to put our country in a vicious circle. There is problem in the supply side because the agriculture production has succumbed. Supply side problem is there because a severe decline in the real term in public investment in agriculture, and, this inflation is primarily driven by the increasing prices of all primary and essential commodities. During the last one year, their price has increased by 11.42 per cent, although the average inflation rate is around 6.4 per cent till February, 2007. But above that, the manufactured commodities' inflation rate has increased by six per cent but the primary articles and agricultural commodities' rate has increased by 11.42 per cent. So, this inflation is primarily driven by the rise in prices of essential commodities and the primary agricultural products.

On the other hand, what is the situation in the villages? Our agricultural population is not getting due price for their produce. There is a disincentive for not going for agriculture production because they are not getting remunerative prices and the prices of agricultural inputs have increased like anything. It is on the one hand. On the other hand, a prescription is being made, let there be indiscriminate import of agriculture goods, foodgrains and other things to address the inflationary situation, and, by this, you are giving further disincentive to our rural economy, which, unfortunately, represents the majority of our population. Their purchasing power is already going down. There is too much money in the market. Yes, Sir, the statistics will show that there is too much money in the market but that is in the hands of the few. There is not too much of money in the hands of the 70 per cent of the population. Yes, there is too much money in the market and that money has to be contained, but not by your so called monetary measures, which you are prescribing through your Budget. There are ways and means to contain that money, and, those ways and means must be unhesitatingly utilized. That too much money in the market cannot be contained by your monetary measures. On the other hand, those who are not having purchasing power are dying despite your Vidarbha package in Maharashtra. I am grateful to the Agriculture

Minister that he admitted this reality on the question raised in this House today morning regarding suicide by farmers that the situation of our farmers is really a matter of concern. More than sixty per cent of our population in the rural economy is not getting the facility of irrigation and credit. They are having serious credit problem. Majority is still in the hands of the *Sahukars,* moneylenders. On the other hand, sixty per cent of our population are striving on that economy, that rural economy. On the one hand, you are putting up disincentives an agriculture everyday; on the other hand, you are talking about improved agricultural productivity. No element of watershed management, no element of irrigation, no element of bank credit can change the situation unless agriculture is made remunerative, and, our peasants get remunerative prices.

And as a result, what is happening? The purchasing power of people is going down. People are committing suicide. The poverty level is increasing, although official claims say that it is declining. But in reality, it is increasing. In reality there is a compression of demand in rural economy. Whatever demand is there in the market, it is looked upon as excess demand, and we go in for all monetary intervention to address that excess demand situation. I think we are in a vicious circle of utter confusion. I must not say confusion, because if the policy is aimed at benefiting a few at the cost of millions, it ought to go in that direction in addressing the inflationary situation, and that is precisely taking place.

Sir, I would also like to draw your attention and, through you, the attention of the Government towards another basic important issue that you need to address if this situation has to be seriously addressed and people have to be given relief. Your Public Distribution System must be strengthened. Even yesterday, our hon. Prime Minister also admitted the necessity of that. Even today, hon. Agriculture Minister admitted the necessity of that. But in your Budget, what have you done? So far as the Public Distribution System is concerned, there is only 6.2 per cent increase in allocation in the food subsidy. And that 6.2 per cent in the face of an inflation rate of more than 6 per cent means a negative and absolute decline in the real allocation for the Public Distribution System. You are admitting that the growth should be inclusive. You are admitting that in the face of inflation, the Public Distribution System must be strengthened. On the other hand, you are allocating only 6.2 per cent. You are cutting a crude joke to the majority of the population that you are curing or addressing the inflationary

situation. What have you suggested in view of addressing the situation in the Employment Guarantee Scheme? Your real allocation has increased to the tune of 3.5 per cent. Again, it is an absolute decline if you take inflation rate into consideration. From 200 to 330 districts in the rural areas who are facing the scourage of inflation most, who are committing suicide in a big way, only 3.5 per cent increase in the allocation. That is well below half of the inflation rate. It means you are proposing a decline. You are cutting a joke when you say that there must be growth; growth is not an end by itself; and, at the same time, growth must be inclusive. All the statements virtually remain to be sound bytes in electronic media and nothing else. Because your all means of addressing inflation are just going in the opposite direction. I don't like to elongate it further. The whole vision, the whole diagnosis of this correction of inflation is fallacious and faulty and you are going in the opposite direction. I don't try to assign or I do not try to cast that kind of an aspersion that you are doing this unknowingly. My saying is that you are doing it knowingly and this attitude is reflected by the Government's own statement. While replying on the President's Address, the Government says that the inflation is to be addressed but the growth impulse of the country's economy should not be affected. Addressing inflation, addressing the maladies being faced by 60 per cent of the population will effect the growth impulse of the economy! If this be the preception, the Government's addressing the inflation is bound to go in other direction. Sir, through you, I want to request the Government that please retrace your steps from this faulty pursuit of addressing inflation. Otherwise, we will be facing and the country will be facing a serious situation. To conclude, Sir, I would like to quote a statement made in the process of Parliamentary debates. "Any Government worth its salt, any Government which is concerned about the poor of this country, any Government which recognises that 30 per cent of the people are below the poverty line, any Government which is sensitive, any Government which has some heart must place inflation control number one on the agenda. This Government has failed to do that." Quotation is over. If the Government fails to do that, it will be paying a price for that today or tomorrow. Up to portion I have quoted, it is spoken by our present Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram, in Lok Sabha on 3rd December 1998, as a Member of the Opposition. I want to repeat the same statement. Please don't create a situation and land in a situation of paying a heavy price. Please correct yourself. By strengthening the Public Distribution System and by directly checking the

flow of excess money in the economy, you can address the inflationary situation. How Rs. 1,25,000 crores, as on date, are the arrears of taxes, direct and indirect put together? It was given as a reply to a question in this House. Can't you take that money? You will be containing too much money in the economy. If you contain the NPAs, there will again be less money in the economy for extravagant expenditure. Please attack the problem directly. Your automatic operation of market cannot deliver any good, except compelling that Government indulging in that situation to pay a heavy price. We don't want the Government to pay that price. We are supporting them. So, we can only express this caution. With this, I commend the Resolution. Thank you.

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इस प्रस्ताव के समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूं। महोदय, इस प्रस्ताव पर बहुत सारे लोगों ने अपनी भावनाओं को व्यक्त किया है, मैं भी उसी पंक्ति में खड़ा हुआ हूं। अग्रवाल साहब ने बहुत अच्छी बात कही कि सवाल महंगाई रोकने का है, महंगाई में राजनीति करने का सवाल नहीं है। महोदय, मैं समाजवादी आंदोलन से आता हूं और हम लोगों ने बचपन में एक नारा दिया था, डाक्टर राम मनोहर लोहिया ने नारा दिया था कि

रोको महंगी, बांधो दाम,
नहीं तो होगा चक्का जाम।

हम लोगों ने नारा लगाया था और बचपन से नारा लगाते रहे हैं। आज हमारा परिवार, हमारा समाज इस महंगाई से घबरा गया है। आज हम लोग जो सामान खरीदते हैं, वही सामान जब अगले दिन खरीदने जाते हैं तो एक दिन में, दो दिन में ही मामला आगे बढ़ जाता है। जिसकी कीमत 15 दिन पहले 14 रुपये किलो थी, उसी चीज़ की कीमत 15 दिन के बाद 20 रुपए किलो हो जाती है। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि इसका पैदावार से कोई मतलब नहीं है। पैदावार तो है, पैदावार जो होनी है, होगी। मैं जो समझ रहा हूं, मेरे दिमाग में जो आता है वह यह है कि पैदावार जब होती है तो बड़े लोग, जिनके पास पैसा होता है, वे किसान के घर में जाकर उसके पूरे फील्ड को अपने पास रख लेते हैं। वे कहते हैं कि यह तुम्हारी पैदावार है, इसको मैं खरीदूंगा। वे लोग वहीं जाते हैं, जहां पर संभावनाएं होती हैं कि अच्छी फसल होगी और उस फसल को वे खरीदकर अपने पास रखते हैं। उसके बाद जब उसके बाज़ार में दामों की कीमत बढ़ने की संभावना होती है, तो उसको निकालते हैं।

उपसभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा कि पता नहीं कैसे यह वायदा बाज़ार में आ गया? वायदा कानून बन गया है सारा माल उन लोगों ने रख लिया-गेहूं रख लिया, चावल रख लिया, तेल रख लिया और एक सौ बारह आइटम्स उन लोगों ने रख लिए। हम ने और हमारे जो नेता हैं लालू प्रसाद ने मिलकर सोनिया गांधी जी को कहा कि यह महंगाई का मामला है, इसलिए यह जो

वादा बाज़ार है आपका, उसमें कुछ संभलकर काम करने की जरूरत है और उसमें दो आइटम्स को हटाया गया, तो कुछ राहत मिली है। ...(व्यवधान)...सर, ज़रा....मुझे disturbance होती है। इसलिए थोड़ा दाम कम हुआ है, लेकिन अग्रवाल साहब ने बहुत बढ़िया कहा कि ज्यों ही बजट आया, साधारण लोग जब कोई घर बनाना चाहते हैं, गरीब लोग घर बनाते हैं, तो उनको लगा कि बजट आएगा, तो थोड़ी हमको राहत मिलेगी जैसे ही बजट आया, दूसरे दिन सीमेंट का दाम बढ़ गया, छड़ का दाम बढ़ गया। गरीब लोग पैसा इकट्ठा करके रखते हैं कि इतने दाम में खरीदेंगे, उतने में मकान बनाएंगे, लेकिन उसका दाम बढ़ गया। इसका मतलब क्या हुआ? इसका मतलब हुआ कि जो बजट आया हमारे यहां, उसमें कुछ खामियां रह गईं, जिसके कारण ये दाम बढ़ गए। हम बहुत ज्यादा आंकड़ों में नहीं जाना चाहते, हम आपसे यह बात कहता चाहते हैं, निवेदन करना चाहते हैं कि अगर हमारी पॉकेट में पैसा है, तो हम सामान खरीदने के लिए तैयार हैं। अगर हमारी पॉकेट में पैसा है, तो हम खरीदेंगे और हाथ से खर्च करेंगे, लेकिन हमारी पॉकेट में जो पैसा है, वह निश्चित तौर पर निश्चित है। हमारी जो आमदनी है, वह नियत है। इतनी ही आमदनी हमको है, लेकिन जब हम बाज़ार में सामान खरीदने जाते हैं, तो हम अनुपात में पैसा हम खर्च नहीं कर पाते हैं। essential commodities का जो सामान है, गरीब लोग जो सामान खरीदते हैं, केरोसिन तेल, महंगाई के कारण जो गेहूं का दाम है, आटे का दाम हैं, चावल का दाम है, तेल का दाम है, प्याज का दाम है, ये सब दाम उसको बढ़े हुए मिलते हैं। आप महीने में तनख्वाह तो देते हैं निश्चित और अगर कर्मचारी लोग आंदोलन करते हैं, थोड़ा बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, बोलते हैं कि चीजों का दाम बढ़ गया है, मेरी भी तनख्वाह बढ़ाओं लेकिन ऐसा कुछ होता नहीं है। आप उनकी तनख्वाह नहीं बढ़ाते हैं, लेकिन बाजार में जो सामान मिलता है, वह सामान उनको ज्यादा दाम पर मिलता है, इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा, पता नहीं क्यों Essential Commodities Act जो है, उसको पता नहीं किन लोगों ने निरस्त करने का काम किया? मुझे मालूम नहीं है। जहां तक मुझे मालूम है कि एन॰डी॰ए॰ की सरकार जब आई थी ...(व्यवधान)... मैं उधर ही इशारा कर रहा हूं, तो एन॰डी॰ए॰ की सरकार जब आई थी, तब उन लोगों ने कहा कि Essential Commodities Act की जरूरत नहीं है, क्योंकि इंस्पैक्टर राज हो जाएगा, ऐसा कहा गया और वह बिलकुल खत्म तो नहीं किया, लेकिन निरस्त किया। जो इंस्पैक्टर थे, सप्लाई इंस्पैक्टर थे, उनको मना कर दिया कि ऐसा मत करना, तो मुझे कभी-कभी लगता है कि एन॰डी॰ए॰ की सरकार ने बहुत सोचकर काम नहीं किया। उसका परिणाम ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: राजनीति प्रसाद जी, उस वक्त दाम नहीं बढे थे। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद: नहीं, नहीं, मैं बता रहा हूं आपको ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: उस वक्त कोई नहीं चिल्लाया था कि महंगाई हो गई है। उस वक्त की प्रोसीडिंग निकालकर देख लीजिए कि कोई नहीं बोला था कि महंगाई बढ़ गई है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद: क्यों आप चिंता कर रहे हैं? ऐसा थोड़े ही होता है, बल्कि तुरन्त दाम बढ़ता है, लेकिन आपने इसे निरस्त करने का काम किया है। यह बड़ी अजीब बात हुई है। मैं पाशा जी से पूछ रहा था, मुझे भी याद था और उन्होंने भी कहा कि हम यहां इन्स्पैक्टर राज चालू नहीं करने देंगे। यहां इन्स्पैक्टर राज चालू नहीं होना चाहिए और बाजार में जिसका जितना सामान है, आराम से रखे। महोदय, मैं एक छोटा सा उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं कि बहुत दिन पहले 1962 के लगभग की बात है, मुझे लगता है कि मैंने उस वक्त स्कूल पास कर लिया था और मैं कॉलेज में जा ही रहा था। एक आदमी के घर में गेहूं की बहुत शार्टेज हो गई थी और वह आदमी भूख हड़ताल पर बैठा था। उससे पूछा कि आप भूख हड़ताल पर क्यों बैठे हो, तो उसने कहा कि बिल्कुल अकाल पड़ा हुआ है और कोई सामान नहीं मिलता है। जब वह भूख हड़ताल पर बैठा तो हम बच्चे लोग भी उसके साथ भूख हड़ताल पर बैठ गए। हम जिस आदमी के नेतृत्व में भूख हड़ताल पर बैठे थे, नेक्स्ट डे उसी आदमी के गोदाम में छापा पड़ा तो उसके घर में 1200 बोरे मिले और उनमें चावल और गेहूं सब चीजें थीं। जब उसका माल पकड़ा गया तो हम लोगों ने कहा कि ये होडिंग का मामला है। हमें ऐसा लगता है कि कुछ व्यापारियों को संतुष्ट करने के लिए, उनको खुली छूट देने के लिए NDA की सरकार ने उसको निरस्त करने का काम किया था। अभी अग्रवाल साहब ने बहुत अच्छी बात कही है कि उस वक्त दाम नहीं बढ़ा था। मैं कहता हूं कि शादी होने के तुरंत बाद बच्चा थोड़े ही होता है, तो उसमें तो बहुत समय लगता है। कभी-कभी तो परिवार नियोजन का इस्तेमाल करने पर उसमें दो-तीन साल भी लग जाते हैं। मैं जो बात कहना चाह रहा हूं कि परिणाम वही हुआ, आपने निरस्त किया और फिर यहाँ कारगिल पैदा हो गया। यहाँ पर वायदा बाजार वाली बड़ी-बड़ी कम्पनियां आ गई और वे किसानों का सब सामान खरीदने लगीं। इसलिए किसानों को ज्यादा पैसा मिलना चाहिए। मुझे ऐसा नहीं लगता है कि किसानों को ज्यादा पैसा नहीं मिलना चाहिए, बल्कि उनको ज्यादा पैसा मिलना चाहिए। लेकिन किसानों को ज्यादा पैसा नहीं मिलता है, बल्कि जो मिडल मैन हैं, जो उसके सामान को खरीदते हैं और खरीदकर बाजार में बेचते हैं, उनको ज्यादा पैसे मिलते हैं। अगर हम इसको चैक नहीं करेंगे तो उचित नहीं होगा। बाजार में और भी बहुत सा सामान है, उसके लिए भी हम लोगों को सबक लेना चाहिए। बहुत-सी सरकारें केवल राजनीतिक कारणों से नहीं बदलती हैं। बीजेपी की सरकार दिल्ली से इसलिए भी चली गई थी कि उसके समय में प्याज का दाम बढ़ गया था। ...(व्यवधान)... पता नहीं वह तो जाएगी या नहीं जाएगी, लेकिन जो अभी समस्या है, मैं केवल उसके बारे में बात कर रहा हूं। यह बहुत जरूरी है कि हम इसके बारे में विचार करें। सरकार का जाना-आना बहुत मायने नहीं रखते है, लेकिन महंगाई सबसे बड़ी चीज होती है। महंगाई कम नहीं हुई तो आम लोगों को परेशानी होती है। इसमें चाहे हमारी सरकार हो या NDA की सरकार हो, आम लोगों को काफी तकलीफ होती है। बड़े लोगों पर महंगाई का कोई असर नहीं होता है। महंगाई का असर गांव में रहने वाले लोगों पर होता है। यह असर उन लोगों पर होता है, जो डेली 75 रुपए, 100 रुपए की मजदूरी करते हैं। बाबुओं पर महंगाई का असर नहीं होता है। हमारे जैसे सफेद कपड़े

पहनने वाले लोगों पर महंगाई का असर नहीं होता है, लेकिन महोदय, जो मजदूर लोग हर रोज 75 रुपए और 100 रुपए का काम करते हैं और जो 2000 महीने में पहरेदारी का काम करते हैं, महंगाई का असर उन पर होता है।

महंगाई का ऐसा असर होता है। वही लोग हमारे वोटर होते हैं, वही लोग समाज को चलाते हैं, उन लोगों से ही हम लोगों की व्यवस्था होती है। कितने परसेंट इन्फलेशन बढ़ा, कितने परसेंट राष्ट्र की ग्रोथ बढ़ी, पचहत्तर रुपए रोज कमाने वाले आदमी, सौ रुपए रोज कमाने वाले मजदूर या पचास रुपए रोज कमाने वाले मजदूर को आपकी राष्ट्रीय ग्रोथ से कोई मतलब नहीं है। यह महंगाई का मामला है। महंगाई को रोकना जरूरी है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा कि एशेन्शियल कोमोडिटीज एक्ट, हालांकि वह राज्यों का विषय है, लेकिन अनेक्टमेंट हम लोगों ने किया है, केंद्रीय सरकार ने पार्लियामेंट में उसे एक्ट बनाया है, उसमें राज्य संशोधन कर सकते हैं, उसको एक्टिव कीजिए। हमारी पैदावार में बहुत ज्यादा कमी नहीं हुई है। हमारा माल, हमारी जो पैदावार है, किसानों के जो माल हैं, उसके लिए बिल्कुल कह सकते हैं कि संदूक में बंद है। वे लोग पैसा कमाने वाले लोग व्याकुल हैं कि कितना पैसा हमें मिल सकता है। करोड़ों रुपए उसमें कमाते हैं। एशेन्शियल कोमोडिटी एक्ट को, जैसाकि सरकार ने भी कहा है कि कुछ मैजर एक्शन लेने चाहिए। एन॰डी॰ए॰ की सरकार ने निरस्त किया था, खत्म नहीं किया था। रिपील नहीं किया था, लेकिन निरस्त किया था। मैं यह चाहूंगा कि बहुत सारी बातों के बावजूद प्राइस राइज को खत्म करना चाहिए, महंगाई को खत्म करना चाहिए। जो एशेन्शियल कोमोडिटीज एक्ट है, जो नियम और कानून हैं, उनमें जरूर कुछ करना चाहिए।

एक माननीय सदस्य: लाल किला है।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद: लाल किला है। लाल किला गाड़ी में है इधर। चावल की एडवरटाइजमेंट होती है। टी॰वी॰ पर दिखाते हैं। उस चावल को यहां खाते हैं तो हमें अपने घर से चावल लाना पड़ता है। पेट के अंदर ही नहीं घुसता है। पता नहीं कैसा चावल है। लोगों ने कहा कि लाल किला खरीद लेना। लाल किला मतलब लाल किला नहीं, लाल किला चावल। शक्ति भोग आटा है। शक्ति भोग के लिए हमें लगता है कि उसमें आटे से ज्यादा मैदा रहती है। मेरे पेट के लिए ठीक नहीं रहता है। उपसभापति जी, मेरे कहने का मतलब है कि लाल किला या शक्ति भोग तो बड़े लोगों के लिए है। जो गरीब लोगों के लिए आटा होता है, बस वही उसका होता है। हमारे एक मित्र बहुत अच्छा बोल गए कि आप राशन की दुकान को ठीक कीजिए।

हमसे कहा गया कि आपका कार्ड है, अभी तो हम राज्यसभा के मेंबर बन गए हैं, तो कोई तकलीफ नहीं होती, लेकिन पहले बताया गया कि राशन की दुकान में क्या-क्या नहीं मिलेगा। हमने

पूछा कि क्या-क्या नहीं मिलेगा, तो वे बोले कि चीनी नहीं मिलेगी। हमने पूछा कि क्यों नहीं मिलेगी, तो उन्होंने कहा कि नहीं मिलेगी। वे बोले कि आपकी आमदनी है। हमने पूछा कि आमदनी है, आपको कैसे मालूम? उन्होंने पूछा कि आप इनकम टैक्स देते हैं, हमने कहा कि हम नहीं देते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि फिर भी आपको चीनी नहीं मिलेगी। हमने पूछा क्यों, तो उन्होंने कहा कि आप सफेद कपड़े पहनते हैं, इसलिए नहीं मिलेगी। हमने पूछा कि सफेद कपड़े पहनने का क्या मतलब हुआ, तो उन्होंने कहा कि आप अच्छे लगते हैं, इसलिए आपको चीनी नहीं मिलेगी। कहने का मतलब है कि जब हम राज्यसभा के मेंबर नहीं बने थे, उस वक्त राशन की दुकानों से हमारे जैसे हजारों आदमियों के नाम कट गए, वे बोले कि राशन में आपको चीनी नहीं मिलेगी। हमने पूछा कि और क्या नहीं मिलेगा, तो वे बोले कि केरोसिन तेल नहीं मिलेगा। हमने पूछा कि क्यों नहीं मिलेगा, तो उन्होंने कहा कि LPG गैस है, इसलिए नहीं मिलेगा।

श्री उपसभापति: आप काफी पुराने हो चुके हैं।

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan) Sir, I speak for and commend this Resolution which is a vital one, which is very timely, and which focuses on a very important issue which affects the whole country. I do not intend to apportion blame on anyone. I have no pretence to say that I know the solution to the problem, but I just want to put before you and this august House that this problem is a real one. We must accept initially and not feel shy of agreeing, whether it is the Government or whether it is the Opposition, that *mahngai,* steep rise in prices, is the real problem which is confronting the whole nation, particularly those who are BPL, those who are SCs, those who are Tribals, those who are OBCs those who are the poorest of the poor and wretched of the wretched. It affects them very badly. Once we agree that problem is there, then there is need for a solemn, thougtful discussion across party lines and then ultimately reach a solution. If Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, these august Houses, are not able to find out a solution then debates are only oral exercises without producing any result. What happened in history can be a matter of interest, but it would not solve the present crisis. The crisis is of *dal-roti,* the crises is of rice, the crisis is of *chappati,* the crisis is of daily food items which a person needs. As we know very well by statistics, there are 10 per cent families, at least, in the country where a person has to live on Rs. 9/- a day. There are 20 per cent such families where a person has to live on Rs. 12/- a day. With that much budget, if it is given to Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha Members, I do not know how we would be able to pull up.

4.00 P.M.

This plight has to be realised. There is runaway inflation also. We can say that it is a walk-away inflation or it is a very high-speed inflation. But inflation is there. A common man, who is below the poverty line, or the *Aam admi* of the country, does not understand the intricacies of statistics of inflation because statistics, they say, are like bikini bathing suits. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they hide is vital. If inflation rate has to be counted, let it be counted of those basic agricultural commodities without which a person cannot live and survive. Then, we will know really how much price rise has taken place. I am sure hardly will there be any person, out of the one billion and ten crore population of this country, who would put his hand up and say that there is no inflation. Everybody says, "*mahangai* is there". Unfortunately, we talk of the GDP growth of the nation. But that does not affect a common *Aam admi. Aam admi* is concerned with his day-to-day survival, and something has to be done for him. Otherwise, we will be reminded of that historical incident of the French Revolution when Maria Antoinette was confronted in Versailles by the hungry mob. She asked her counsellor, the Finance Minister: What did they want? What is their grievance? She was told, "They are hungry. इन पर महंगाई की मार पड़ी है। They are crying for bread." She said, "They are foolish. If they are hungry, they should ask for cake. Bread is not eaten." That kind of a wonderland we are having here even in this age, by not accepting inflation. Inflation is real. Inflation is affecting everyone every day. It may be on toor daal, or urad daal, or rajma. But without pulses, an Indian cannot live. Without rotis, he cannot survive. Without sambar or idlis, the existence is not possible. And that is the fact of *mahangai.* What is the way out? It is very difficult to say. But some way must be found out. And, one thing which emerges clearly from a very lucid discussion here is that if we kill the golden goose which lays a golden egg, there will be a disaster. The farmer is that goose who lays the golden egg for us in the country, and that farmer today is mostly worse off.

I need not quote statistics, but as they add gravity to your wisdom and oration, I will mention them with your permission, Sir. According to the statistics, written and available, 40 per cent out of the total farming community wants to quit farming for other income avenues; 26 per cent of them consider agriculture unprofitable; and 8 per cent say that it is downright risky. Only a very few of them are carrying on with agriculture because

they have no other option. It has become घाटे का सौदा। Somehow we must satisfy the agriculturists, the farmers, the 70 per cent of *asli bharat,* that we are with them, and we must assure them remunerative prices for their products. Till that incentive is given, there will not be enough of produce. Till that incentive is given, the farmer would not be permitted to get his heart and spirit into his job and there will be only suicides and more suicides. It is really horrendous that, in this *Bharat,* where we call a farmer our *annadata,* 1430 suicides of farmers take place every month; 45 daily. Why does it happen? I do not say that all of them are because of debt or all of them are because of famine. But, so many farmers dying is something that must shake our conscience. In a year, 1,87,000 suicides take place. Out of them, 15.8 per cent of farmers. In the morning I heard the hon. Agriculture Minister stating that 'फार्मर्स को शायद suicide commit करने की आदत पड़ गयी है' It appeared funny though I did not intervene at that time फार्मर्स को सिगरेट पीने की आदत पड़ गयी है, हुक्का पीने की आदत पड़ गयी है, अफीम खाने की आदत पड़ गयी है और suicide करने की आदत पड़ गयी है। महोदय, क्या किसी को suicide करने की आदत पड़ सकती है? Your honour, is it possible? Suicide is an extreme step which a man takes in desperation. It is virtually defamatory to an Indian farmer for anybody to say that he has become habitual of committing suicide. It was said in the morning by our very learned Agriculture Minister, who himself is a champion of agriculturists. Anyhow, I won't go into the details of what he said. But this is a fact that contribution to GDP by agriculture is only 2.3 per cent and that is when we club allied activities such as fisheries and other things with pure agriculture. The contribution of pure agriculture is not more than 1.5 or 1.7 per cent. Now, that is the GDP growth in regard to agriculture and the investment in agriculture is very little. If the total contribution of 65 per cent of the population, that is, the farmers, to the national kitty is 20 per cent and if 20 per cent national resource is distributed amongst those 65 per cent, what would they get? So, my main suggestion would be to control the inflation, somehow improve the condition of our agriculturists, the farmer and the whole of rural India. Without that, we would not be able to check inflation and if there is inflation, there will be a steep rise in prices. That is the corollary to inflation. It appears funny that, if people are hungry you tell them we have lessened taxes on dog food and cat biscuits. Is it not a travesty of a poor man's plight? There may be many reasons for inflation. It is for experts to know. I am a simple man, a common man. I am not an expert. But, generally

speaking, forward trading is one of them which is a kind of gamble, a gamble on line which must be checked, which must controlled as has been pointed out by very wise and seasoned colleagues of mine. The Essential Commodities Act must be implemented with all the ruthlessness. If we take figures for the whole of the country, you wont find in such a big country even fifty persons who have been punished with any jail sentence because of hoarding and bacause of any malpractice. That means the Essential Commodities Act is not being applied rightly. I wont repeat theat the PDS must be strengthened and corruption must be eliminated from the PDS machinery.

The Public Distribution System is meant for the poorest of the poor, for the BPL. If the PDS crumbles, the poor will go hungry. The poor will sleep without anything in their stomach. Mahangai is not affecting the rich people at all. It may be affecting them in certain manner, but not that way as it affects the poor. Something must be done. some way must be found out and someone has to accept the blame also. Whom should we blame for *mahangai,* the poorest of the poor man, common man, middleman or the Government which is in power? It may be राजग or it may be संप्रग for a common man does not matter beacuse bread has no political connotations, and *dal* has got no political leanings. That must be provided to him. The Government in power, whichever is there, has to bear the brunt, has to come forward and say, 'we are accountable'. It has been—I won't sound political but it is a fact—in the headlines in newspapers regarding results in Uttarakhand and Punjab, the headline was *'mahangai maar gai'*. Another headlines was, '*mahangai* ne dubo diya'. It is very certain. If the people suffer, they will ask for the blood, and ultimately, we have to pay for it. So, accountability must be accepted by the Government. They can't shy away from this. If they are able to control *mahangai,* it will be a great crowning glory for them.If they are not able to control it, then they shall have to face the consequences which are written large on the wall, and that writing must be recognised.

It is very kind of you, Sir, to have permitted me to speak on this vital issue. I know, through your goodness, something will be done constructively to control run away inflation and steep rise in prices. Than you very much, Sir, for your kind indulgence.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): It is not coming on ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: We are here to listen to you, my dear, We are all with you.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: I just wanted to be sure that the technology between you and me also works.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this subject. Sir, I always enjoy the Friday afternoon because this is the time, once in a week, when Members do accept to keep aside their party affiliations, and since there is no party quota of time and everybody can really have his say, members lend to speak out their minds and there is a real detailed discussion of the issues involved, which generally does not happen during the normal hours. I wish some of the issues in the Budget and economics were discussed on Friday afternoon rather than during the week. Sir, I found there that there was some kind of an attempt to show party loyalities on the part of the Shri Rajniti Prasad and Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik, but then there was a response supporting the Essential Commodities Act and opposing the forward markets from this end also. So, I can say that the debates so far has been largely apolitical and without party affiliations.

'Therefore, I would like to start by complimenting hon. Pashaji for having brought out the issue of inflation on a Friday afternoon because this is the only time when we can really have a dispassionate discussion of what causes inflation and what would be the remedial action that is required to be taken. During the course of the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President, many Members did talk about the inflation, but that was generally along the party lines. Those from the Treasury Benches, the Members would say, 'nothing is seriously wrong. Of course, we are concerned that the prices are going up. But, nothing is seriously wrong, and the situation is under control.' ...while those' on this side try to create a scare that something was awfully wrong and that India is on the door of a crisis. Neither was true, and I find that, thanks to Mr. Pashs's Resoulation today, the analysis of the inflation today is more rational and quiet. Sir, the inflation is measured in two manners, number one, it is on the basis of the price indices. I do not need to explain how the price indices are complied. Price indices are complied on the basis of a basket of goods, which form part of

consumption pattern of that particular community or particular class. Then the prices of those comodities are taken into account and they are weighted according to the proportion that is used in the consumption. Then you come to a figure, which is divided by the total number of weights which is 100, that gives you the index. Now this index is calculated every week and compared with the index in the previous year in the same week. That is a very funny way of calculating the inflation or rise in prices. When we say today that the inflation is 6.7 per cent, we are not talking of, somebody mentioned that vegetables were ten ruppes seven days back and now they have become fourteen rupees, the comparision is not between ten rupees and fourteen rupees, the comparision is between the indices in this week compared with the those in the previous year in the same week. Now, when you do that, the commodities get into prominence and therefore, people tend to think of the primary produce particulary the agricultural commodities etc., if their prices appear to have gone high, then the primary commodities must be primarily responsible for the inflation. That is one way of looking at it and that is the way the Finance Minister has broadly calculated the inflation and suggested the remedy. There is another way of calculating it and that is given by the quantity theory of money where what you do is, the total supply money, the total quantity of money multiplied by the velocity of money which is really how many times the money changes hands, divided by the total product that you have. It is a simple formula. The popular formula is gv/p and when that is taken into account, you do not really put emphasis on what has happened to rice, what has happened to wheat, what has happened to brinjals and what has happened to onions. Then you take into account the economy in its macro appearance and find out why the prices have increased. Sir, I would like to make a point I think it was pointed out by my comrade hon. that what is responsible for inflation is neither so much the constraints of the supply nor the distribution failure, it is a joint product or a combined product of the kind of economic policies that we are following. Sir, it is very nice to say that we are trying to serve the *aam adami.* It is very nice to say that we will dole out money in abundance to all kinds of weak sections. That wins votes, that pays at the hustings, that pays in terms of votes but that also costs money because that increases the money supply and when you follow *aam adami* economy or populist economy and then the baby that you get is inflation. Like Vishwamitra you cannot say that this baby does not belong to me. You fell, you succumbed to the tempatations of *aam adami* and nymph apsara,

that is Menaka and having dallied with her and won the elections thereby, you cannot now say that the baby of inflation does not belong to you. Inflation is an inevitable cause, inevitable consequence of the kind of populist economics that we have been following.

Sir, hon. Mr. Pasha has suggested three methods or three ways of combating the inflation. One is, of course, that the procurement system should be enhanced and strengthened, (2) the Public Distribution should be enhanced and strengthened and (3) the last measure he suggested is to take measures to stop forward trading. If you permit me, Mr. Pasha, in all friendliness and amicably without any kind of party pride, I woule like to submit some of the facts before you so that you consider the real aspect of these problems and these remedies.

If necessary and possible, come to a conclusion whether what you have suggested is really the best thing in the interest of the country. Sir, the first suggestion is about procurement. I would add one more point because that follows from Mr. Pasha's proposition, that was made explicit by Shri Shantaram Laxman Naik, that was made explicit by Rajniti Prasad and also on this side that the Essential Commodities Act has to be restored. Now, I would like to quote one argument. Often on this side, it is said that the POTA was useful for containing terrorism. But UPA scrapped it. Why did you scrap it? Yesterday, the Prime Minister said it was because there is abundant evidence that the POTA Act was misused. Sir, I can say that there is abundant evidence that the Essential Commodities Act has been grossly misused agaist the farmers. Do you know that it was under the Essential Commodities Act that 67 per cent of the sugar produced by the sugar factories was taken away by the Government at half the market price? Do you know it was the Essential Commodities Act that permitted the Government to ban exports of agricultural commodities when it was paying subsidies to industrial exports? Do you know that it was under the Essential Commodities Act that many of my colleagues were arrested for bringing just about five kilos of wheat from Punjab to Haryana? Do you know that evey today it is under the Essential Commodities Act that the Maharashtra cotton growers, particulary from Vidarbha, who are committing suicide, are not allowed to take his cotton even to Madhya Pradesh and to Andhra Pradesh? He is not allowed process it. This is something some of you don't know. He is not even allowed to decorticate his paddy. That is called possession. That is the manner in which Essential Commodities

Act has been used and I am very proud to say it. You asked me who wanted the Essential Commodities Act to be scrapped. it is the farmer's movement as a whole, which demanded that the Essential Commodities Act should be scrapped. NDA did not scrap it. They made only minor changes because the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Chief Minister of Punjab were not willing to do it. But, I wish, if we have a Government which really represents the farmers, the Essential Commodities Act will have absolutely no place at the law books of this country. What the procurement system given you? You want to strengthen the procurement system. This morning. I think, Brinda Karatji, mentioned that there is a lobby that demands that the FCI should be scrapped. I am proud to say, Sir that I have demanded that the Food Corporation of India should be scrapped. You talked of the intermediaries. Now, between the wheat procurement at the ration shops of PDS shop, throughout the intermediaries there is only one intermediary and that is FCI. Do you know the difference between the procurement price and the price at which the wheat is sold? It is about Rs. 280 per quintal which is 50 per cent of the procurement. Now, it is known that the Food Corporation of India is corrupt. It is known that there are coolies who earn as much as Rs. 200,000 a year and even pay income tax on it. There were abundant leakages all along the pipeline and similarly even in the PDS, the thing that you say that sugar is not available, edible oil is not available, there is abundant evidence that all these things are deliberately leaked out and given in the market. That is because the PDS itself is largely a politically patronised network. You cannot enforce it. You cannot strengthen it and improve it. The more you strength it, the worse it becomes. When you tried to target it in between and created the concept of below poverty line and given different colours to the ration card, it only becomes worse because the pipeline is vicious and the general conclusion that we can draw is, the more the Government intervenes, the worse things become. You may not like this conclusion. But that is a fact. The dictum is that "power corrupts, absolute power absolutely;" whenever you give power to an organisation like the Food Corporation of India or to the rationing system they will be corrupt.

Don't say that we will have PDS. Don't say that we will try to improve the PDS; we will try to make the PDS more honest and more transparent is not possible. A scheme like that does not work, honestly. It is like Amartya Sen's thesis that we ought to have public works in health,

education and food security and he says that we need to have massive and efficient mechanism for that. But, you cannot have massive and public mechanism. These two words are contradictory to each other. They cannot be together. You have another example. In the NREGS which is already now accepted that this flagship Scheme of the UPA has capsized and there is a flop show. So, if you are trying to reinforce anything and therefore, hope that the things will improve that will not happen.

The inflation is an extremely worrisome thing. Sir, 6.7 per cent is still under control! However I think, the Finance Minister is unnecessarily complacent about it. Let us not forget that this is a tight rope walk. Sir, 6.7 per cent rate of inflation is something that we can take. But, let us remember what happened after the Bangladesh War. Then the prices went up in less than a year by 40 per cent and we had to imposed cess, etc. In the times of NDA, we had the Kargil War which explains a part of in price then. Just imagine, tomorrow— it is not really fictitious —if a war starts in Iran what is going to be the consequences on your economy, Sir? So, don't be complacent about 6.7 per cent. We are already on tight rope. I think, we ought to, really, find out what are the correct ways of facing inflation? We had hyper inflation in the immediate post first-war period in Germany which is very picturesquely described by Stephen Zweig in his novel 'The Hyper Inflation in Germany'. And, we had a similar inflation in the immediate post-revolution period in Soviet Union. When, even the people who were supposed to be doing well at one time really became beggars. In the German situation, Stephen-Zweig described that even the daughters of great houses and great families sold their bodies in order to be able to live. He gives a very picturesque description of two brothers of a landlord. One of them was given to drinking and the other one was very frugal. He saved money and purchased Government bonds. When the inflation came in, one who saved money and purchased the Government bonds became a pauper, because the bonds became worthless. While the brothers who drank beer could live on merrily by selling merely empty bottles of beer. The only person who has justified inflation, Comrade Pasha, is V.I. Lenin. In the time of New Economic Policy in the immediate post-revolutionary period, he said that inflation is the best way of bringing about social equality, because inflation is something that destroys rich more than it destroys poor. But, otherwise, there is nobody who has justified inflation.

Now, Sir, the procurement has given a very unhappy experience. I remember that this Food Corporation of India would have gone away in 1952-I am not quite sure about the year-when Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, who was the Food Minister at that time, said that when India's position of food supplies was satisfactory, let us scrap rationing let us make it open market. If we listened to him, then, we should not have had the period where we had to depend to PL-480 shipments of wheat from the United States. His suggestion was that we would not have rationing because that is very expensive mechanism. A much better mechanism which I had suggested through my writings if you read columns is make the market free for everything. And, you want to give subsidies to poor? You want to help the poor? Then do not support the cheap price shops or the fair price shops or the ration shops or the FCI bosses. Let the things come in the market and depending upon your judgement about the requirements of the people, give them Food Stamps. And, if you give them food stamps they can become addition to their income. That is the easiest way of helping the poor. But the Government doesn't like easy ways to helping the poor. They want a methods which will fatten the bureaucracy and which will give patronage to the political boss so that he can give promises of wanting to do good to the people.

The third and a very important thing that has been mentioned by the honourable, Mr. Pasha, is about the forward markets. And, if you permit me, Sir, I would like to speak a little at length on this subject. On the 27th evening at Alwar in Rajasthan the farmers organisations announced that the farmers of Punjab, Hayana and Western Uttar Pradesh will not give their wheat to the Food Corporation of India; instead, they will give it entirely to the NCDEx where they can see the spot price, where they can see the prices that are coming for future months etc. Immediately the same evening I got a telephone saying that it has been decided that the wheat and paddy will be taken off the futures market. After, that Finance Minister made an announcement making an ex tempore addition. One doesn't really know what are the real situation is because he said that it has been banned and the Minister for Agriculture only yesterday was quoted in the newspapers as saying that it is not banned, it is only suspended. One does not know what the facts are. The important thing, this has created an uncertainty about it so that the farmers do not count on it and the farmers do not prepare to go the NCDEx way. So, I would like to explain what the

futures market is about because I know that most people have some kind of a misgiving because there was a time when only the traders and, if you don't mind my using a casteist word, only the traders of a certain caste, indulged in the futures market, *vaiyada bazaar* or whatever you call it. And becuase the producer was not associated with those futures market the idea came that this is a thing in which one indulges, when you have no hold on commodity at all; a trader who does not produce even a grame of wheat would actually deal in thousands of tonnes of wheat, on the futures market, talking on the telephone. And that is why I am surprised that our friend from Rajasthan also has this mis-concept because these are people from Rajasthan who made really the *Vaiyada Bazaar most popular.* But the idea that the *Vaiyada Bazaar* is gambling, is wrong. I would like to say in very few words what the futures market represents for the farmers. Sir, the farmer produces grains; let us just say grains; I will not talk about other commodities. If he sows one grain, he produces a thousand grains. That is the kind of surplus he produces. Now, try to understand why a person who is able to multiply his seed a thousand times becomes indebted and why is it that he forced to commit suicides. So, he produces grain at one point of time and in one place. He knows, every farmer knows that four months after the harvest, his product will get a good price; it will be good because that is what the traders take advantage of. He knows that the price in his place may not be good, but the price in Delhi will be good. But he is not able to take advantage of it because he does not have the means to hold on for 4 months or transfer the wheat to Delhi. Now, what the futures market does is, and through the technology. This great steps is not due to magnificence by some generous party, it is technology which comes to the help of the poor and the technology has come because technology now permits you to have on a small screen the spot price, the price at which you can sell it today.

For example, I am sowing cotton. When I sow cotton, I know my crop will be coming after six months when it will be ready. I find out what will be the price after six months. And, if I am not happy with that, and I find that the futures market trend shows that the prices are going to increase after that, I can make a sale six months later and get that price. There is absolutely no doubt about it. If I lock, using Amitabh Bachchan's expression and say, lock for six month's price, ..(*Interruption*).. I thought you will understand if I use Amitabh Bachchan's expression. If I lock it at six

months price, then, I will get that price. This is the first time that the farmer will be able to get the price that he desires. This means that the farmer produces material commodity with farm utility ...(*Interruptions*)... but, he will not be able to add time utility and space utility to that. The futures market makes it possible for the farmer to add time and space utility without investing the money or the effort to store it or transport it. So, the idea that the commodity exchanges have resulted in inflation is, entirely, incorrect. I have very closely studied the subject, and I can show you that the commodities that are dealt with on the futures market have shown increase in prices, but so have the commodities which are not dealt with in the commodities market at all. So, futures market themselves do not lead to any kind of inflation.

Finally, the prices are always determined by long-term supply and demand. It is not by the artificial speculation because for some time, the prices might go up, otherwise, the prices do not go up. Ultimately, if somebody bids like that and tries to increase the price, he will regret it because he will one day have to deliver. So, today the kind of futures market we have in India, most of them operate in such a way that, at least, 40 per cent of the transactions are finally delivered. When the ratio is as high as 40 per cent it is not possible for anybody to gamble in futures market. Those who think it is a gamble, I think, they should really understand what the mechanism is. I would say that for the farmers it is a great thing. For the last 25 years, I have been fighting so that the farmers might get a remunerative prices or that they might get the prices that they desire. No Government changed it. The Congress Government did not change it for 50 years. Even the NDA Government did not change it. So, the first time, the ultimate God of poor people and the masses technology. It is technology which is coming to the help of the poor and that is what is frightening some people who have been traditionally the enemies of the farmers.

Let me make it very clear about futures market. If the Government has banned the futures market in Punjab, I do not know whether it is banned or suspended, but the farmers are determined and we will make a formal announcement on the subject. Mr. Minister may please note that on the 17th March, we will make an announcement that until you remove this ban, we will not give a grain of wheat to the Food Corporation of India. We made an announcement like that when Shri Chaturanan Mishra was the Minister for Agriculture. He knows it or his files will show that no a grain of

wheat reached the *mandis* at that time. And, you are facing a similar situation this time also. Don't rush to conclusions. And don't rush to form opinions about futures market simply becuase some people with old mindset are saying that it is only gamble and that is what is causing the rise in prices.

Sir, at the end I would say, I thank the hon. Member, Shri Syed Azeez Pasha for bringing this in this discussion in a rather quiet and sedate atmosphere of a Friday afternoon. Despite it being the time for the Private Members' Resolution, Sir, you will find that the discussion has been more thorough and in-depth than you can expect in the normal period, in the normal time of legislative business.

The procurement has been directly working against the farmers because the procurement prices have always been less than the market price. The PDS has never helped the poor.The PDS has only helped the pipeline. And the futures market is one thing, which is going to realise the dreams of many years of decades of the farmers. Please don't try to play with it without understanding what futures market is about. Sir, I am aware that the Government has appointed a Committee to take a decision on the futures market.

I do not want to elaborate on this subject because I happen to be a member of that Committee, but I am surely convinced that this Government will be able to take a right decision and follow a policy of freedom rather than additional restrictions. Don't intensify the Licence Permit Quota Raj. If you want to ensure the good of the poor, issue food stamps and make big, big rationing and distribution of foodgrains free. That would be the cheapest way. The only problem would be, you would have to send home some of the salaried staff that are making money now.

The last thing I would like to say, Sir, is if you have doubt in what I am saying. I will make one prevision. If the Sixth Pay Commission's Report comes out during this financial year, and as I expect, the Government will accept that, the Government will not accept any measures that are calculated to promote productivity, then, by this time next year, our rate of inflation will have gone up to nine per cent. If anybody is prepared, I am prepared to take a wager on this. Going by the kind of policies that we are following, the populist policies, the so-called *aam aadmi* policies, and the irrational decisions like on procurement and on Public Distribution System

and the futures market, I see that the rate of inflation by next time this year would be something like nine per cent. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister will speak on the Resolution.

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं उन सभी माननीय सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं, जिन्होंने अपने अमूल्य विचार यहां पर रखे। जो सुझाव उन्होंने यहां पर दिए हैं, निश्चित रूप से सरकार उनका स्वागत करती है। यहां पर हमारे सात-आठ माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने विचार रखे, उनको मैं अपनी ओर से धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं। मैं उन सभी सदस्यों का भी ऋणी हूं जिन्होंने आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि पर चिंता व्यक्त करते हुए अपने विचार यहां पर व्यक्त किए हैं।

महोदय, मूल संकल्प में मुख्य रूप से तीन बातें उठायी गयी हैं। पहला खरीद और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली का विस्तार और सुदृढ़ीकरण किया जाए। दूसरा, वायदा व्यापार को रोकने के लिए उपाय किए जाएं और तीसरा, बढ़ती हुई मुद्रास्फीति और मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए एक विस्तृत कार्य योजना सदन के समक्ष रखी जाए।

मैंने इन मुद्दों को नोट किया है। साथ ही मैं इन महत्वपूर्ण सुझावों के लिए माननीय सदस्यों का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूं जिन्होंने यहां पर अपनी बात रखी है। मुझे विश्वास है कि माननीय सदस्यों को लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के कार्यकरण और उसके फायदों के बारे में जानकारी होगी। इस प्रणाली को और अधिक मज़बूत बनाने के लिए सरकार ने इसका कम्प्यूटरीकरण करने की एक नई स्कीम शुरू की है। खाद्यान्नों की चोरी और डायवर्जन को रोकने के लिए राज्यों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के लिए एक कार्य योजना बनाई गयी है, ग्रामीण अन्न बैंक योजना शुरू की है तथा इसको कानूनी संबल प्रदान करने के लिए सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली नियंत्रण आदेश भी जारी किया है।

इसके अलावा सरकार ने भारतीय खाद्य निगम को निधियों का इलैक्ट्रॉनिक अंतरण शुरू करने के लिए भी कदम उठाए हैं और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं को ढोने वाले ट्रक, वाहन के विण्ड सील्ड तथा पिछले भाग में बैनर/बोर्ड प्रदर्शित करने के अनुदेश जारी भी किए गए हैं, जिन पर राज्य सरकार, गंतव्य, वस्तु और एजेंट के नाम के ब्यौरे आदि का भी विचार रखा है।

माननीय सदस्यों ने और भी चिंता जाहिर की है कि यह महंगाई किस वजह से बढ़ी है? उसका कारण उन्होंने बताया कि वायदा बाज़ार की वजह से, एक माननीय सदस्य ने और ज्यादातर सभी ने अपनी बात में वायदा बाज़ार पर ज्यादा ज़ोर दिया है। जहां तक वायदा व्यापार को रोकने का संबंध है, इस संबंध में निवेदन है कि वस्तुओं में वायदा व्यापार को अग्रिम संविदा (विनियमन)

अधिनियम, 1952 के उपबंधों के तहत विनियमित किया जाता है। वायदा बाज़ार आयोग की स्थापना मुंबई में 1953 में वस्तु वायदा बाज़ारों के विनियामक के रूप में इस अधिनियम के उपबंधों के तहत की गई थी। वायदा बाज़ार आयोग बाज़ार में दिन-प्रतिदिन की गतिविधियों पर बारीकी से नज़र रखता है। इसने सदस्यों और ग्राहकों के लिए खुली स्थिति परसीमा, विभिन्न प्रकार के मार्जिनों, मूल्य बैण्ड आदि जैसे विभिन्न विनियामक उपाय निर्धारित किए हैं।

माननीय उपसभापति जी, भावी सौदा व्यापार की भूमिका और आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों पर इसके प्रभाव के संबंध में चर्चाओं के संदर्भ में उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग ने इस बात की जांच के लिए हाल ही में कृषिजन्य वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में हुई वृद्धि पर भावी सौदा व्यापार का कितना प्रभाव पड़ा, योजना आयोग की सदस्य प्रो॰ अभिजीत सेन की अध्यक्षता में 2.3.2007 को एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया। यह समिति अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ कृषिजन्य वस्तुओं के थोक और खुदरा मूल्यों पर प्रभाव, यदि कोई हो, की मात्रा का भी अध्ययन करेगी। साथ ही वायदा बाजार आयोग ने हाल ही में वायदा व्यापार को कुछ वस्तुओं तक प्रतिबंधित करने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाए हैं, जो मैं बता रहा हूं:—

पहला है, वायदा बाजार आयोग ने 23.1.2007 के पत्र द्वारा तीन नेशनल कमोडिटी एक्सचेंजों अर्थात् (1) मल्टी कमोडिटी एक्सचेंज ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (2) नेशनल कमोडिटी एंड डेरीवेटिव एक्सचेंज लिमिटेड और (3) नेशनल मल्टी कमोडिटीज एक्सचेंज ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड को तूहर और उड़द की आवश्यक वस्तुओं की सूची से हटाने और उनके संबंध में सभी बकाया संविदाओं को समाप्त किए जाने की तारीख अर्थात् 23.1.2007 के प्रचलित मूल्यों पर बंद करने के निदेश दिए हैं। वायदा बाजार आयोग ने यह भी बताया कि उसकी पूर्व अनुमति के बिना आगे कोई संविदा नहीं की जाएगी और उड़द और तूहर में संविदाएं करने के लिए पहले दी जा चुकी अनुमति को समाप्त समझा जाए।

माननीय उपसभापति जी, बाद में 27.2.2007 को वायदा बाजार ने सभी तीन एक्सचेंजों को निर्देश दिया कि गेहूं और चावल में कोई नई संविदा नहीं की जाए। एक्सचेंज को लिखे गए एक पत्र में वायदा बाजार आयोग ने कहा है कि अभी शुरू किए जाने वाली संविदाओं के लिए पहले ही दी जा चुकी अनुमति रद्द मानी जाए और इन वस्तुओं में चल रही संविदाओं के संबंध में कोई नई पोजिशन लेने की अनुमति न दी जाए। केवल पोजिशनों को निपटाने की अनुमति दी जाए।

उपसभापति जी, मूल्य वृद्धि के मामले में भी सदन के सदस्यों ने अपनी चिंताएं जाहिर की हैं। मैं माननीय सदन को यह बताना चाहूंगा कि गेहूं और दालों जैसी कुछ खाद्य वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि मांग की तुलना में कम आपूर्ति, उत्पादन में लक्ष्य की तुलना में गिरावट, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मूल्यों में वृद्धि और घरेलू आपूर्ति में कमी के कारण हुई है।

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदम इस प्रकार हैं कि सरकार को आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि किए जाने की जानकारी है और मूल्यों में वृद्धि को रोकने के लिए आयात द्वारा घरेलू उपलब्धता में वृद्धि की गई है, खुले बाजार में बिक्री के लिए अधिक खाद्यान्न रिलीज किए गए हैं, आयात पर सीमा-शुल्क घटाया गया है, दालों के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है। इसके साथ ही सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न कदमों के परिणामस्वरूप पिछले तीन महीनों में गेहूं और चने की दाल के मूल्यों में स्थिरता से लेकर गिरावट का रूझान देखा गया है। देश के विभिन्न केन्द्रों पर चीनी के मूल्यों में नवम्बर, 2006 के मध्य से गिरावट आनी शुरू हुई। यह स्पष्ट है कि सरकार ने आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि को रोकने तथा खरीद और सार्वजनिक वितरण-प्रणाली को मजबूत करने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाए हैं। महोदय, अंत में, मेरा आपके माध्यम से श्री सैयद अज़ीज पाशा जी से आग्रह है कि वे प्रस्तावित संकल्प को वापस लेने की कृपा करें।

श्री सैयद अज़ीज पाशा: ऑनरेबल चैयरमैन साहब, thank you अभी जो डिसकशन हुआ है, इसमें हमारे कई माननीय सदस्यों ने पार्टिसिपेट किया है। यूं तो यहां पर कई सवालात के जवाब भी आ चुके हैं, मगर इसके बावजूद भी मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हुकूमत ने जो वायदे किए हैं और यहां पर जो आश्वासन दिए गए हैं, उनके ऊपर अमल किया जाए। यहां पर पहले नायक साहब बोल रहे थे, तो उन्होंने चार-पांच बातें बताई। उन्होंने कहा कि श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी जी ने कहा है एसेंशियल कमोडेटीज एक्ट को कुछ टीथ देने चाहिएं। मैं समझता हूं कि इस पर आवश्यक कार्यवाही करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए, यह देखें। वैसे तो इस मामले में हमारे माननीय श्री शरद जोशी जी के चंद अपने कुछ शुब्हात हैं, कुछ खदसात हैं। उनका कहना था कि फारमर्स की जो एसोसिएशन्स हैं, उन्होंने इस बारे में इसकी मुखालफत की है। मेरे विचार से इस मामले पर और भी सोच-विचार करना चाहिए, मगर बात यह है कि एसेंशियल कमोडेटीज एक्ट का जिस बेजा तरीके से इस्तेमाल किया गया है, उसकी रोकथाम करने के लिए कुछ न कुछ उपाय करने चाहिएं। यह नहीं कहना चाहिए कि यह पूरा एसेंशियल कमोडेटीज एक्ट ही गलत है, मैं यह मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूं। मगर इसका जिस बेजा तरीके से इस्तेमाल किया गया है, उसके लिए हमको क्या-क्या प्रिकॉशन्स लेने चाहिएं, उसको सुनना चाहिए। जैसा कि हमारे साथी माननीय शरद जोशी जी ने फ्यूचर ट्रेडिंग के बारे में कहा है और हमारी पूरी लेफ्ट पार्टी का यह कहना है कि फ्यूचर ट्रेडिंग की वजह से प्राइस में इजाफा होता है। चूंकि वे भी कमेटी के मैम्बर हैं और खुद हुकूमत के फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने भी कहा है, इसकी अच्छाई क्या है और बुराई क्या है, इसको जानने के बाद वे किसी निर्णय पर आएंगे। इसके बावजूद भी मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि फ्यूचर ट्रेडिंग की वजह ये इन्फ्लेशन या महंगाई में इजाफा हो रहा है, उससे संबंधित सभी तमाम चीजों पर सोच-विचार किया जाए। इसके बारे में जैसा कि हमारी पार्टी का कहना है कि इस पर बैन होना चाहिए। मैं शरद जोशी की आरग्युमेंट्स की वजह से थोड़ा बहुत कंफ्यूज हो गया हूं। मगर हमारी पार्टी

का जो सोच-विचार है, मैं इसके बारे में वहां पर दोहराऊंगा कि इसको करना ही चाहिए। जैसा कि मैं अपने प्रस्ताव में केरल का उदाहरण देते हुए एक बात बता रहा था कि वहां पर जो चार लेयर के डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम्स हैं, क्यों न उस चीज को अपनाते हुए, सैन्टर की तरफ से डायरेक्शन जानी चाहिए कि इसकी वजह से जितने भी कंज्यूमर्स हैं, उनको बहुत किस्म की सुविधाएं मिलती हैं और पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम में जो लिमिटेड आइटम्स दिए जा रहे हैं, उसकी बजाय उन आइटम्स को भी एक्सटेंशन दी जाए।

आज हम देख रहे हैं कि बाजार में एशेन्शियल कोमोडिटीज के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, मगर बदकिस्मती से इस राशन चार्ट में, पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम में खाली चार-पांच चीजें छपी होती हैं। इसको एक्सटेंशन देते हुए और भी कुछ एशेन्शियल आइटम्स इसमें इन्क्लुड किए जाएं। जैसाकि नायक साहब ने बताया कि पहले राशन चार्ट में पूरे आइटम्स और उसके दाम लिखे होते थे, कंज्यूमर को मालूम होता था कि क्या मिल रहा है, उसका दाम क्या है, क्या खरीदना चाहिए, क्या नहीं खरीदना चाहिए, यह सिस्टम जो ठप्प हो चुका है, उसे दोबारा राइज करना चाहिए। ये तमाम चीजें हैं, जिनके लिए मैं कहूंगा कि इसको बहुत सख्ती से लागू करने के लिए गवर्नमैंट में एक पोलिटिकल विल होनी चाहिए ताकि होल्डर्स इसका फायदा न उठाएं। इसकी वजह से आम जनता परेशान न हो। आज हम देख रहे हैं कि महंगाई की वजह से आम आदमी इसकी चक्की में पिसा जा रहा है। हमारे ऑनरेबल मैम्बर्स, डा॰ प्रकाश जी ने जो बात कही है, अग्रवाल जी ने जो बात कही है, मैं उन तमाम लोगों को भी धन्यवाद दूंगा। पब्लिक और पूरे नेशन के सामने आज जो अहम मुद्दा है, मंहगाई का जो सवाल है, उसके बारे में हुकूमत सीरियसली सोचे। खैर ये तमाम चीजें, जिनका आपने एश्योरेंस इस हाउस में दिया है, अगर आप उन एश्योरेंसिस को अच्छी तरह से, सख्ती से लागू करें तो पब्लिक को राहत मिल सकती है। बस मैं इन्हीं चीजों को कवर करते हुए ...(व्यवधान)... सर, मैं समझता हूं कि मैं इन एश्योरेंसेस को सीरियस तरीके से ले रहा हूं। मैं समझूंगा कि हुकूमत इन तमाम चीजों के बारे में सख्त कदम उठाते हुए पब्लिक को राहत पहुंचायेगी।

श्री उपसभापति: मि॰ अजीज पाशा क्या आप विदड्रा करेंगे?

श्री सैयद अजीज पाशा: उपसभापति जी, इन एश्योरेंसेस के बाद मैं अपने रेजोल्यूशन को विदड्रा करता हूं।

श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया: माननीय उपसभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य की भावनाओं का हम सम्मान करते हैं। हमारी सरकार की कथनी और करनी में बिल्कुल अंतर नहीं है और न ही आने देंगे। साथ ही जब-जब जरूरत पड़ती है, हम पूरी तरह से आपके सदन की भावनाओं का सम्मान करते हुए, हमारी केंद्र सरकार, यू॰पी॰ए॰ सरकार भी चाहती है कि आम लोगों को अच्छा और सस्ता खाद्यान्न मिले। भाव के ऊपर कंट्रोल हो। हमारी नेता श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी ने भी इस बात के लिए चिंता

जाहिर की है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यह बात दोनों सदनों को अवगत कराई है। हम अपनी कथनी और करनी में अंतर नहीं आने देंगे। आपकी भावनाओं का सम्मान करते हुए, मैं पुनः उपसभापति महोदय से अनुरोध करता हूं कि संकल्प को वापस लेने की मंजूरी प्रदान करें और माननीय सदस्य अपना यह संकल्प वापस लें।

श्री उपसभापति: उन्होंने वापस ले लिया है।

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Special Package for the State of Rajasthan by Amending the Gadgil-mukherjee Formula for All Round and Speedy Development

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका और सदन का बहुत आभारी हूं कि मेरा यह संकल्प स्वाहा होने से बच गया। आपका बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं आपकी आज्ञा से निम्नलिखित संकल्प प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूं:—

(i) राजस्थान सामाजिक-आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़ा हुआ राज्य है, जिसका साठ प्रतिशत भू-भाग मरुस्थल है और वहां बड़ी संख्या में जनजातीय लोग रहते हैं।

(ii) भौगोलिक क्षेत्र की दृष्टि से बड़ा होने के कारण राजस्थान में, विशेषकर कम जनसंख्या घनत्व वाले क्षेत्रों में सेवाओं को प्रदान करने में अधिक लागत आती है।

(iii) अवसंरचनात्मक विकास का सूचकांक राष्ट्रीय औसत की तुलना में कम है।

(iv) प्रति व्यक्ति आय और प्रति व्यक्ति योजना परिव्यय राष्ट्रीय औसत की तुलना में कम है।

(v) ऋण जमा अनुपात राष्ट्रीय औसत की तुलना में कम है।

(vi) राज्य उद्यमों में केन्द्रीय सरकार का निवेश कम है।

"यह सभा सरकार से आग्रह करती है कि वह गाडगिल-मुखर्जी सूत्र, जो केन्द्र से राज्यों को अनुदान हस्तांतरित करने का आधार है, में संशोधन करके राजस्थान राज्य के सर्वांगीण और तीव्र विकास के लिए इस राज्य को विशेष पैकेज दे।"

उपसभापति जी, मैंने यह संकल्प प्रस्तुत किया है। मैं विशेष रूप से इस सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं।